

- 1 -

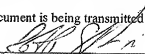
Docket No.: M2006-700010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Marc Gandar
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Examiner: Backhean Tiv
Art Unit: 2151

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with § 1.6(d), on the 15th day of January, 2009.


Robert A. Skrivaneck, Jr. (Reg. No. 41,316)

Backhean Tiv

DRAFT AMENDED CLAIMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA

Dear Examiner Tiv:

Enclosed are some alternative proposed draft claim amendment to overcome the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to further clarify the claimed invention.

Proposed Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of independent claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks which include a proposed agenda begin on page 4 of this paper

Serial No.: 10/698,610

- 2 -

Art Unit: 2151

Proposed Amendments to the Claims**Listing of Independent Claims:**

1. (First Alternative) A method for exchanging information frames over a network between a plurality of devices, each device of the plurality of devices comprising a communication circuit connected to a processing unit and comprising a plurality of addresses, each address being associated with one of a transmission indicator ~~or~~ and a reception indicator ~~but not both~~, wherein each address is associated with a memory containing an information frame that can be at least one of modified and read by the processing unit, ~~and wherein only a single device of the plurality of devices includes one of the plurality of addresses associated with the transmission indicator,~~ and wherein all other devices of the plurality of devices that include the one address associate the one address with the reception indicator, the method comprising the steps of:

having a master device periodically transmit an address of the plurality of addresses over the network; and

responsive to transmission of the address by the master device:

having the communication circuit of the single device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the transmission indicator transmit the information frame contained in the memory associated with the address over the network and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address; and

having the communication circuit of each device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the reception indicator write into the memory associated with the address the information frame transmitted over the network by the single device and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address.

1. (Second Alternative) A method for exchanging information frames over a network between a plurality of devices, each device of the plurality of devices comprising a communication circuit connected to a processing unit and comprising a plurality of addresses, each address being associated with only one of a transmission indicator ~~or~~ and a reception indicator, wherein each address is associated with a memory containing an information frame that can be at

Serial No.: 10/698,610

- 3 -

Art Unit: 2151

least one of modified and read by the processing unit, and wherein only a single device of the plurality of devices includes one of the plurality of addresses associated with the transmission indicator, and wherein all other devices of the plurality of devices that include the one address associate the one address with the reception indicator, the method comprising the steps of:

having a master device periodically transmit over the network an address of the plurality of addresses; and

responsive to transmission of the address by the master device:

having the communication circuit of the single device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the transmission indicator transmit over the network the information frame contained in the memory associated with the address and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address; and

having the communication circuit of each device for which the address transmitted by the master device is associated with the reception indicator write into the memory associated with the address the information frame transmitted over the network by the single device and provide its processing unit with an identifier of the address.

7. (Proposed Amendment) A device that can be connected to a network, comprising:

a communication circuit connected to a processing unit and including an address table, a register table, and a direction table, each register in the register table being associated with an address in the address table and the direction table comprising one direction indicator per address, said processing unit being ~~capable of reading~~ configured to read information frames stored ~~into in~~ the registers ~~or writing~~ and write information frames ~~in to~~ the registers, said communication circuit being configured to enable, upon reception of a request received from the network and corresponding to one of said addresses, ~~of transmitting transmit~~ over the network the information frame stored in the register associated with said address in response to the corresponding direction indicator being a first determined type, ~~of writing write~~ an information frame received from the network ~~into to~~ the register associated with said address in response to the corresponding direction indicator being a second determined type, and ~~of transmitting transmit~~ to said processing unit an identifier of the register associated with said address.

Serial No.: 10/698,610

- 4 -

Art Unit: 2151

REMARKS

Enclosed are two alternative draft amendments to independent claim 1 to overcome the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Each of these alternatives is directed to making it clear that only one device of the plurality of devices will have a particular address associated with the transmission indicator, and that all other devices that have the particular address will have the particular address associated with the reception indicator.

Other amendments are also proposed to independent claim 1 to further clarify the claimed subject matter and thereby, to more clearly distinguish over the cited references (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0169886 to Saito et al. (hereinafter Saito), U.S. Patent No. 5,666,363 to Osakabe et al. (hereinafter Osakabe), and U.S. Patent No. 7,143,187 to Takeda et al (hereinafter Takeda)).

A proposed amendment to claim 7 is also provided. This proposed amendment replaces the expression "capable of" with "configured to" as some Examiners object to the expression "capable of" as rendering the recited functionality optional.

During the interview, I would like to discuss with you and your supervisor which of the two alternative proposed amendments to claim 1 you feel is the most clear. I would also like to describe the present invention to you and your supervisor, briefly discuss the cited references with you, and point out how the language of the independent claims patentably distinguishes over the asserted combination.

Respectfully submitted,

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